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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/320,299 05/26/99 WHITCOMB J 56534-B/JFW

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NEW YORK NY 10036

HM12/1002

EXAMINER

PARKIN, J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1648

DATE MAILED:

7
10/02/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/320,299

Applicant(s)

Whitcomb, J.

Examiner
Jeffrey S. Parkin, Ph.D.

Group Art Unit
1648



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 May 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 17, and 23-31 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☒ Claims 1-9, 17, and 23-31 are subject to restriction or election requirements.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Serial No.: 09/320,299
Applicant: Whitcomb, J.

Docket No.: 56534-B/JPW
Filing Date: 05/26/99

Restriction Requirement

Fax Response Pilot for Written Restriction Requirements

1. In an effort to enhance communication with our customers and reduce processing time, Group 1640 is running a Fax Response Pilot for Written Restriction Requirements. A dedicated Fax machine is in place to receive your responses. The Fax number is (703) 305-3704. A Fax cover sheet is attached to this Office Action for your convenience. We encourage your participation in this Pilot program. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Paula Hutzell, Ph.D., Supervisory Patent Examiner at Paula.Hutzell@uspto.gov or 703-308-4310. Thank you in advance for allowing us to enhance our customer service. **Please limit the use of this dedicated Fax number to responses to Written Restrictions.**

Restriction/Election

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

a. Group I, claim(s) 1-9 and 23-31, drawn to **methods of assessing the effectiveness of NNRT therapy** in an HIV-infected patient, classified in class 435, subclass 5.

b. Group II, claim(s) 17 and 20, drawn to a **vector** comprising a patient-derived segment, classified in class 435, subclass 320.1.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

4. Inventions I and II are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together, or they have different modes of operation, or they have different functions, or they have different effects (refer to M.P.E.P. ¶s 806.04 and 808.01). In the instant case the

methodology of Group I neither requires nor uses the product of Group II. Moreover, the product of Group II can be employed in a variety of different methodologies (i.e., recombinant protein production). Therefore, each invention is clearly drawn toward a different inventive entity.

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, requirement for independent searches, and recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single group for prosecution on the merits. Applicant is also reminded that the claims should be amended, if necessary, to reflect the election.

Species Election

Patentably Distinct

6. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- a. Claim(s) 1-5, drawn to the detection of HIV RT mutants comprising a mutation at **codon 236**.
- b. Claim(s) 6-9, drawn to the detection of HIV RT mutants comprising a mutation at **codon 225**.
- c. Claim(s) 23-27, drawn to the detection of HIV RT mutants comprising a mutation at **codon 230**.
- d. Claim(s) 28-31, drawn to the detection of HIV RT mutants comprising a mutation at **codon 181**.

Each of the aforementioned species is directed toward the detection of disparate genotypic differences in the HIV genome and will each require independent searches. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single disclosed species, even though this

requirement is traversed. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of the other invention.

Claim Cancellation

7. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

Correspondence

8. The Art Unit location of your application in the Patent and Trademark Office has changed. To facilitate the correlation of related papers and documents for this application, all future correspondence should be directed to **art unit 1648**.

9. Correspondence related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). Official communications should be directed toward one of the following Group 1600 fax numbers: (703) 308-4242 or (703) 305-3014. Informal communications may be submitted directly to the Examiner through the following fax number: (703) 308-4426. Applicants are encouraged to notify the Examiner prior to the submission of such documents to facilitate their expeditious processing and entry.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jeffrey S. Parkin, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 308-2227. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM. A message may be left on the examiner's

Serial No.: 09/320,299
Applicant: Whitcomb, J.

5 voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisors, James Housel or Laurie Scheiner, can be reached at (703) 308-4027 or (703) 308-1122, respectively. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Respectfully,



Jeffrey S. Parkin, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1648

25 September, 2000